

New York Tribune.

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The Republican Conference Must Help the Voters to Get a Square Deal.

The Republican conference which will assemble here to-morrow will represent, in essence, the present control of the Republican party in this state. A commendable effort has been made to have advocates of all shades of political belief within the party in attendance. Nevertheless, in a body which is approximately an unofficial state convention, as in the regularly elected state convention, the active party workers and those in charge of the party machinery must outnumber other elements. Therefore, whatever results from this conference must be judged, and inevitably will be judged, by the public as the declaration of policies and principles of the existing Republican organization.

In itself the calling of such a gathering is admission that Republicanism as administered to the voters has not been altogether a satisfactory prescription. Such admission, by those responsible for the situation, is hopeful, if it be followed by a willingness to study diligently and work faithfully and sincerely in the effort to give satisfaction.

The way to do that is emphatically not the way that has been followed in the last three or four years. The voters feel—whether with justice or not is immaterial so far as results are concerned—that they have not had a square deal from the Republican party. It is time they had evidence of a desire to give them what they themselves would admit to be a square deal.

The voter, individually and collectively, is not unreasonable. His political ideas are comparatively simple. He wants a party organization built from the bottom up, not from the top down, as he knows it to be at present. He wants laws safeguarding him in his privileges as a party member against the aggressions of those into whose hands, of necessity, power is given.

He wants the simplest and most direct way of choosing party candidates for office, for he believes such candidates more likely to be independent of political and financial control than those hand-picked by a boss or a clique of bosses. He wants public officials to administer their offices not according to the beliefs or directions of a boss or bosses, but according to their own beliefs as to the public's interest and their own observations of public opinion.

The public was educated to this standard by Hughes, a Republican Governor. It has repudiated Republican platforms which fell below it and one Republican Assembly which did not measure up to it. There is no reason to believe that it would treat differently other platforms, official or unofficial, or other Republican officials or legislators if they, too, fell below it.

With this in mind, the conference can do the Republican party a great service if it outline an aggressive, progressive, up-to-date legislative programme for the coming year.

That should be followed by appropriate action to help in the election of an able, progressive Speaker of the Assembly to take the lead in carrying out the programme. No half-way measures or half-loaf policies will restore lost public confidence. Nothing less than positive action in the beginning of a campaign for a square deal for the voters will be of the slightest good at this time.

The French Crisis Not a Cataclysm.

The ministerial crisis in France differs from most of its predecessors in that it involves not merely a matter of party politics, but a fundamental principle of national finance and economics. It is exaggeration, however, to say that the honor, the credit or the prosperity of the republic is at stake. Mr. Caillaux is as true a patriot, as genuine a republican and as sound a financier as Mr. Barthou or Mr. Drumont.

The question simply is whether in her new loan France shall continue her old policy of exempting government bonds from taxation. On both sides there is much to be said. In many countries besides France, including, of course, our own, such securities have been exempt from taxation, while in others they share the common lot of all investments. The former system encourages citizens to become the creditors of their own government and therefore interested in its stability and prosperity, and enables the government to borrow at a low rate of interest.

Special interest attaches to the question in France because that country is planning to adopt an income tax, and it is thought that exemption of rentes from taxation might defeat that system. It is not clear, however, that it would do so. It is not expected to do so here, where exemption of federal, state and municipal bonds does not prevent the levying of a tax on other incomes. The objection that exemption would create a privileged class seems also to have less force in France than elsewhere, because while the French debt is by far the largest in the world it is also the most generally distributed among the people. If the \$255,000,000 yearly paid in interest on rentes were exempted from taxation, that would be an exemption in favor of millions of frugal citizens who have withdrawn so many francs from the traditional stocking to show their faith in the gov-

ernment of the republic. Whether rentes are taxed or not, the solvency of the republic is not likely to be affected.

More Than Argentine Beef Needed.

The arrival of Argentine beef in this market seems to have little economic effect. A thousand quarters a day are scarcely a mouthful to Father Knickerbocker. There is no change of direction in the rampant cry for "beef and" or in the reverent summoning of a Chateaubriand.

This is not a condemnation of the free importation of beef. It is a rebuke of the too great expectations which some placed upon that system and a reminder that something more is needed for reducing the cost of living than the mere opening of our markets to a limited supply of meat from nearly six thousand miles away. Whatever reduction of price here may be effected will be welcome to consumers; but it will not be well for housekeepers yet to revise their budgets on the basis of such expectations.

What is needed is that our domestic production shall be adapted to the new conditions which have been established during the generation. We must learn to produce beef cheaply on fenced farms, instead of on the open plains which have now disappeared from our pastoral economy. The thousands of acres of neglected land in the very suburbs of our cities suggest the possible results of thrift and application.

Dr. Montessori in America.

The most interesting woman in Europe arrived upon these shores yesterday. Dr. Maria Montessori has not only made her "houses of childhood" a vital factor in Italian education. The spirit of her practice has spread far and wide and promises to leave a permanent mark upon the training of children everywhere.

America will give Dr. Montessori a particularly hearty welcome. Her theories of individuality, of permitting each child to develop freely and without restraint, have an especial appeal in this free-for-all country. As some one has said: "America is a Montessori nation to start with."

Certain features of the Montessori practice have seemed open to criticism. Her teaching of reading and writing to very young children is one such point. Also is there doubt of how completely her *laissez-faire* methods are applicable to the quick, explosive nature of the American child.

Upon all of these questions it will be a pleasure and a privilege to hear Dr. Montessori at first hand.

What Real Decency Is.

There has been so much dull, degrading drivel in the guise of sex literature on the one hand, and so much prurient Comstockism on the other, that it is refreshing to read Judge Learned Hand's clear words on the law on this subject. The matter before him was a book of the current crop. The court held that it was for a jury to decide finally whether the work was "obscene, lewd or lascivious." But in so holding Judge Hand uttered these striking words:

I question whether in the end men will regard that as obscene which is honestly relevant to the adequate expression of innocent ideas, and whether they will not believe that truth and beauty are too precious to society at large to be mortified in the interests of those most likely to pervert them to base uses.

Indeed, it seems hardly likely that we are even today so lukewarm in our interest in letters or serious discussion to be content to reduce our treatment of sex to the standard of a child's library in the supposed interest of a salacious few, or that shame will for long prevent us from adequate portrayal of some of the most serious and beautiful sides of human nature.

A better rebuke for the prurient minded has seldom been offered. That there can be abuse of such a liberal rule Judge Hand concedes. But he proceeds to make it clear that a court and a jury can give short shrift to the author who tries to use the privilege as "a cover for lewdness and a stalking horse from which to strike at purity."

This is indeed going to the root of the whole matter. Every one knows that the question of decency and propriety is one not so much of literal words used as of manner and intent. Judge Hand's view simply applies the law in right, common-sense fashion. May it prevail!

Expert Work from 'Prentice Hands.

Mr. Wilson in his message declared that we must move toward independence for the Philippines "as steadily as the way can be cleared and the foundations thoughtfully and permanently laid." We must dissent from his aim, but the mode of progress, which he prescribes must be heartily approved. In his prescription, however, there is an implied rebuke of some of the doings of his own administration.

News from the islands indicates the prevalence of anxiety and unrest, not so much because of any enunciation of new policy as because of the manner in which and the agents by whom the government's policy is being executed. It is agreed by all that progress should be made in the development of self-government. Presidents McKinley, Roosevelt and Taft were as much committed to that as is President Wilson. There is difference of opinion as to the speed at which and the spirit in which the successive changes are to be made, and there is ground for thinking that in some which have just been made not sufficient attention has been given to providing safeguards against abuse.

There can be no question that the changes which are made should be made by men of experience in Philippine affairs. The disquieting feature of the case is that the making of changes which many consider too radical and abrupt has been entrusted to a Governor of exceptional lack of experience and information.

For an Early Constitutional Convention.

It is to be hoped that the Legislature, when it meets next week, or the Legislature of 1914 will take action providing for the holding of a special election to submit to the voters the question whether a constitutional convention shall be held. This would involve, to be sure, considerable expense. But it would obviate several objections incident to any other course to bring about an early constitutional convention, so that, after all, it seems the lesser evil.

If the question about the calling of the convention be submitted at a special election next spring and approved, the delegates could be elected at the regular election in November of next year and the convention assemble in April of 1915. The result of its deliberations could then be submitted for the ratification of the voters in the regular election of 1915, a year when there will be no big campaign to arouse partisan spirit and obscure the issues. If the preliminary question be not submitted until the regular election next year, the delegates cannot be elected until 1915, and unless some special election should be held the constitution would be presented for approval by the voters in 1916, when a state an-

national campaign would have full hold on the public.

There is widespread belief in the need for an early, thorough, non-political rewriting of the state's organic law. It is a tremendous undertaking, which should be prosecuted under the most favorable conditions. For this reason the special election next spring seems desirable.

To Dissolve the Politician-Criminal Firm.

Police Commissioner Waldo, in an unofficial swan song, declares that a great part of the crime in this city is due to a combination of criminals and politicians. Gambling flourishes, he says, because the gamblers have politicians on their staff, or the politicians have some financial interest in the gambling enterprises. Gangmen get light sentences, or no punishment at all, because political pull enters into the situation in some way. Also, much police graft and inefficiency are due to a similar combination, for mutual profit of lawbreakers and policemen.

It is not a strikingly original theory. Indeed, it is so patently true that even Mr. Waldo has discovered it, though his record has not always furnished evidence that he acted on the discovery. And the remedy is not obscure. The public has begun the cure by electing the fusion ticket and re-electing District Attorney Whitman. The rest of the cure is to get—what Mr. Mitchell undoubtedly will supply—a non-political Police Commissioner with brains who will work with the District Attorney in going after criminals, regardless of political affiliations. The police and political grafters and crooks in general who can survive that combination will be few.

The suffrage convention won't be at all the latest thing in convention fashions if it omits the Doxology and a few hymns.

A man in New Jersey has "returned" a ham which he took fifty-four years ago. But it wasn't the same ham.

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

A four-year-old Harlem miss, whose homeliness is as pronounced as her loveliness, has long resented the practice of her parents and others of spelling words that they didn't want her to hear. Recently a relative who hadn't seen the child arrived for a short visit. In talking with the mother the next day in the little girl's presence she said: "Isn't it too bad she is so u-g-l-y?" "I may be u-g-l-y, auntie, but I'm s-m-a-r-t."

"Does the income tax hit you?" "Yes, in a very sore spot. I shall not have to pay any."—Chicago Record-Herald.

FINE FEATHERS.

Many of the plumes recently seized by inspectors on the docks prove to be skillful manufactures of horsehair.—News Item.

Little pairs of clippers.

Make a shocking muss.

Little lady trippers.

Make a mighty fuss.

Little analysts.

Make an assay.

Uncle Sam's advisers.

Fill him with dismay.

Little search discloses.

Little cause is found.

Any more "roses."

"Feathers" to impound.

Little snips of horsehair.

Garnered by the groom.

If they're not too coarse hair.

Make an "aigrette" plume!

G. B. M.

Mrs. A.—You seem rather hoarse this morning. Mrs. B.—Well, my husband came home rather late last night.—Boston Transcript.

In the process of housecleaning in a downtown office a copy of The Tribune printed in 1865 was discovered. The paper was yellow but perfect, even where it had been folded. Among the items of interest were these, under the head of "Mexico": "On November 20 French reinforcements to the number of 1,200 joined Majia's command at Matamoros. Colonel Bravo, of the Liberal army in Mexico, bearer of dispatches from Juarez to the United States government at Washington, arrived at Kansas City. He stated that the Mexicans had 25,000 troops under arms and that 75,000 could be put in the field as soon as the means were raised."

"John, we have been married twelve years to-day." "Oh, forget it. What's the use of trying to start a quarrel?"—Pittsburgh Post.

"The Society for the Prevention of Baldness, the members of which are pledged against the use of artificial head covering—to go hatless at all times—will ruin many members if hat fashions do not change," says "Die Mode." "Eccentricity of style in headwear is not confined to the millinery shop; it has invaded the men's hat store. The automobile gave the high hat a severe blow, and laxity with regard to that old established and highly important part of men's dress has stimulated freak fashions, until now men do not know what to wear. A wool hat at the opera and a crush hat with a smoking jacket are examples of present day hat liberty. But the end is near, and next season there will be a return to reason for men. As to women's hats—who knows?"

"Good show at the Frivoly now," said the New York man to his country cousin. "Want to go?" "Dunno. Is it clinical or sociological?"—Washington Herald.

NEW YORK FROM THE SUBURBS.

A New York theatre announces "a clean play for clean people." Why not try that kind of play on the other kind of people and see if it wouldn't help some?—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

New York is to have a college of commerce. It may save money for those who might be tempted to go after a business education in Wall Street.—Washington Star.

If New York is really looking for another police head why not old "Touché-on-an-apprentice-to-7," the Hon. William S. Devery, the "best chief of police" New York ever had, if you say it quickly?—Philadelphia Inquirer.

Another milestone of progress has been set up in New York, where the automobile fatalities of September doubled those of the corresponding month of 1912.—Rochester Post-Express.

It would be no more than retributive justice if the thief who stole an overcoat from a Washington Secret Service man were to fall into the hands of the New York police.—Washington Post.

In New York a woman walked on the grass, and it took five policemen to wrench her two babies from her when she was put in a cell. An Hungarian man and woman were bitten by a dog and were locked up because they could not explain in English what they were crying and gesticulating about. New York is a complicated city.—Springfield Republican.

HOPE FOR THE COUNTRY.

There are about 75,000 soda water fountains in the United States and their number is growing at such a rate that the editor of "The Soda Fountain" confidently predicts that in a decade there will be as many of them as there are saloons.—200,000.

WE'LL BITE—WHAT DOES IT?

From The Chicago Record-Herald. Mayor Harrison has put the ban on "24." If you don't know what "24" means, never mind. You're in luck.

THE PEOPLE'S COLUMN

An Open Forum for Public Debate.

A WORD FOR FROGS

Do They Chuckle at Being Sent to a Laboratory?

To the Editor of The Tribune: Sir: Is there anything funny, or even pleasing, in the thought of a frog being vivisectioned—anything competent to cause Keeper Snyder or readers of The Tribune, even when not very imaginative, to "chuckle," as described in yesterday's paper?

Anti-vivisectionists sometimes claim that the "incurably unjust" bullying and treacherous institution of vivisection makes not only the doers of the bloody work, but also the consenting and would-be-profitting public, a little more callous; that by loading, or attempting to load, the consequences of our ignorances and delusions of the laws of health on the shoulders of our weak and friendless "poor relations" we darken our own comprehension and blunt our not yet too keen sympathy for suffering. Sometimes evidence seems to support them.

It is true that frogs are not romantic or beautiful; but, on the other hand, who would wish to have his autograph appropriated by his looks? I have it is true, being cold blooded, they do not suffer greatly, but what evidence I have been able to gather at first hand would indicate that could they chuckle it would not be on being "sent" (how euphemistic is the English language!) "to the laboratory."

S. N. CLEGGHORN.

East Orange, N. J., Dec. 3, 1913.

THE FEEBLE SEX

Its Members Withstand Child Bearing, Housework and Education Fairly Well.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: One Gardner, writing to The Tribune of December 2, argues that women must not try to do "the work of men." In opening he plays upon the ancient, mouldered string of woman's pitiful weakness, the "faintness of the nervous systems of women to bear any added strain of responsibility or excitement." This has a scent of lavender and old lace. We used years ago to hear about our feeble frames, and how they would break under the strain of a college education. A Dr. John Todd, clergyman, wrote as follows in 1875: "Alas! Must we crowd education upon our daughters, and for the sake of having them intellectual make them puny, nervous and their whole earthly existence a struggle between life and death?" A few hours' stroll upon the campus of Smith College on a sunny day is the best refutation of this forgotten argument. To-day it is the political whirl that is going to break us down. A few weeks' study of our blooming Western women voters ought to be enough to lay Gardner's fears on this score to rest. No toll can be too arduous, too wearing, too protracted for a woman, it seems, so long as it is incurred in "her sphere" of childbearing, housework or nursery; but as soon as she steps outside of these her feeble existence may be snapped off in a moment.

Gardner thinks that politics is chiefly concerned with "fiscal and commercial problems, transportation, etc.," with which women have nothing to do and about which they know nothing, whereas men are in "daily contact" with these things and talk of them. Our observation of men and things differs somewhat from his. The main idea in male politics seems to us to be party victory, quite aside from party principles, or the getting of a "job" or a share in the spoils. Gardner considers that women are "out of" at home from these subjects. We think not. We do all the family trading, in all the markets of the world, and "the tariff" is more than an abstraction to us. We worry Johnny and Mamie through school and nurse them through contagious diseases caught there. Garbage collection and the excise law loom large in our eyes. Dirty and unsafe streets spill life or death to us every day in the year. The long workday, the little wage, the high cost of living, the dark tenements, the peril of fire—these things occupy the thoughts and the conversation of women, while the men are safely and composedly at all. And all the world holds its sides and laughs.

From The Philadelphia Record. Thus the message of President Wilson is as convenient in its form as it is broad and elevated in its thought and comprehensive in its general view of national interests. Its dimensions make it possible for every citizen of the United States to read it, and even one who does read it knows what work the President regards it as important for Congress to do.

From The Washington Star. Mexico gets brief and indefinite mention—maybe enough, as matters stand. The President thinks he has belted Huerta around, and he leaves him to die. If Huerta does not die he is "all-fired slow about it"—but that is another story.

From The Boston Globe. Ears were cocked to catch an anti-monopoly war cry, but Mr. Wilson contented himself with a declaration that the "great Sherman act" should be supplemented by new legislation.

TO SHOW ARMENIAN LORE

Native Publisher Here with Rare Literary Specimens.

Armenians all over the world are celebrating the 1500th anniversary of the printing of the first Armenian book. Vahan Zartarian, a well known publisher from Constantinople, has come here equipped with pictures of the kings, queens, warriors, castles and palaces of 2,000 years ago, and will lecture before the New York Armenian colony in the Young Men's Christian Association hall, No. 212 West 24th street, next Sunday evening. There are 600 Armenians who have settled in this city since their people have been scattered by the persecutions of the Turks, hence Mr. Zartarian's coming is of patriotic interest to a large number.

Fifteen centuries ago a bishop and a priest named Mesrob and Sahag invented the Armenian alphabet of thirty-nine letters and wrote the Bible in these characters. Their monasteries then took up the study of writing and produced such a store of literature that this period is called the "golden age," but learning was necessarily monastic still, and did not become popular until eleven centuries later, when Hagop Megavor, the Armenian Gutenberg, printed a book in Armenian. This first book was a prayer book, printed in Venice in 1553, and there is only one copy of it left, the property of a museum in Jerusalem.

Mr. Zartarian brought with him photographs of this work, from which Edward Ayanak has succeeded in making offset reproductions. These are to be used as souvenirs of next Sunday's patriotic meeting.

From The Philadelphia Inquirer. "Watchful waiting" coupled with a "hope" for the best—that is the Wilson policy (on Mexico), which is just no policy

laying bricks or digging ditches. And we submit that the mental acumen developed by the daily stress of these matters will enable women to make a most valuable contribution to the ballot box, and will result in more attention being paid to the needs of humanity and perhaps less to the masculine Moloch of Big Business.

Finally, Gardner gives thanks that the Three Tailors of Tooley Street were not the whole people of England. Are men the whole people of our republic? MARTHA WENTWORTH SUFFEREN. No. 68 Buckingham Road, Brooklyn, Dec. 3, 1913.

"FEMINIST" VERSUS "EQUALIST"

The Former Movement Is Called Revolutionary and Chaotic.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: W. L. George in the leading article of the December "Atlantic Monthly" says: "While the suffragists wish to alter the law, the feminists wish to alter also the conventions, which are nothing but petrified habits."

It seems to me that Mr. George is carried away by the same rather loose and haphazard ideas of freedom as Ellen Key. I would suggest that "equalist" is a better term than "feminist" for those who differ with conventions only where they militate against a single standard of morality, wages, etc., and who desire a single standard of morality rather than a double standard, as seems to be the tendency of the "feminists."

Jean Pinot's recently translated "Problems of the Sexes" is a splendid portrayal of the sound views of the equalists who object to the Ellen Key sort of liberty, which forgets that, as F. B. Vrooman says in his "The New Politics," individual liberty does not lie toward the individualism. The adherents of the Key school are essentially revolutionary, and, of course, play their part iconoclastically, but they certainly lack the vision without which the people perish and reform degenerates into chaos.

HAROLD S. HOWARD.

New York, Dec. 3, 1913.

ANOTHER LESSON IN GEOGRAPHY

The Critic of a Gazetteer Returns to His Attack.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: In a contribution of November 21 which you entitled "A Lesson in Geography" I drew attention to certain antiquated and erroneous entries in the gazetteer section of the New Standard Dictionary. In your issue of November 28 I find myself honored with a reply by the managing editor of this dictionary in which he charges me categorically with being "incorrect," and in support of his rebuttal quotes the Encyclopedia Britannica (1910 edition).

When I read his communication and realized that it was written in grim earnest and not as a joke, I frankly did not know whether to laugh at your correspondent or to pity him. Two years ago the world's press was filled with the doings of the Delhi durbar. Periodicals vied with each other in depicting the historic spectacle. No less epoch-making than the durbar itself was the proclamation of the King-Emperor at Delhi on December 12, 1911. The New York Tribune and, in fact, every important newspaper printed the substance of this now famous announcement. For the edification of Dr. Vizetelly, and as a gentle reminder that history did not cease to be made on the completion of the Encyclopedia Britannica, permit me to quote part of the royal proclamation bearing on the point in controversy. My extract is taken from "The Times of India," royal durbar edition:

"We are pleased to announce to our people that on the advice of our ministers, tendered after consultation with our Governor General in Council, we have decided upon the transfer of the seat of the government of India from Calcutta to the ancient capital of Delhi, and simultaneously, and as a consequence of that transfer, the creation, at as early a date as possible, of a governorship for

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the Presidency of Bengal, of a new Lieutenant Governorship in Council administering the areas of Bihar, Chota Nagpur and Orissa, and of a Chief Commissioner-ship of Assam, with such administrative changes and redistribution of boundaries as our Governor General in Council, with the approval of our Secretary of State for India in Council, may in due course determine.

These changes went into effect April 1, 1912. Your correspondent says the recent administrative changes were "reported April, 1913"—presumably the time when the Statesman's Year Book appeared, but denies that they have become effective in Bengal. As the editor of a dictionary he doubtless will be glad to be set right in his dates.

It is strange that a man busily engaged in the preparation of a dictionary and in the preparation of this shifting gazetteer at the time of these shifting landmarks in India should be so out of touch with affairs; perhaps stranger still is his obvious unfamiliarity with the ordinary facts of reference, the stock in trade of every literary worker.

With the creation of the new province of Bihar and Orissa, it necessarily follows that the districts comprised in this new province ceased to form part of Bengal